

Claim Amendments

Please cancel claims 1-5 and add claims 6-11 as follows:

1-5. (canceled)

6. (new) A lithium battery comprising:

a positive electrode comprising sulfur and a metal complex of an organic sulfur compound having a thiol group in the compound molecule;

a negative electrode comprising a lithium-containing composite nitride represented by the general formula $\text{Li}_{3-x}\text{M}_x\text{N}$, wherein M is at least one transition element selected from the group consisting of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni and Cu, and $0.1 \leq x \leq 0.8$; and a lithium ion conductive nonaqueous electrolyte.

7. (new) The lithium battery in accordance with claim 6, wherein the positive electrode further comprises at least one of a conductive polymer and an organic sulfur compound having a thiol group in the compound molecule.

8. (new) A lithium battery comprising:

a positive electrode comprising lithium-containing sulfur represented by the general formula $(\text{Li}_x\text{S})_n$, wherein $0 < x \leq 2$ and n is a natural number, and a metal complex of an organic sulfur compound having a thiolate group in the compound molecule;

a negative electrode comprising at least one of an alloy and a metal oxide, and a lithium-containing composite nitride represented by the general formula $\text{Li}_{3-y}\text{M}_y\text{N}$, wherein M is at least one transition element selected from the group consisting of Ti, V, Cr, Mn, Fe, Co, Ni and Cu, and $0.1 \leq y \leq 0.8$; and

a lithium ion conductive nonaqueous electrolyte.

9. (new) The lithium battery in accordance with claim 8, wherein the positive electrode further comprises at least one of a conductive polymer and an organic sulfur compound having a thiolate group in the compound molecule.

10. (new) The lithium battery in accordance with claim 8, wherein said alloy is a solid solution or an intermetallic compound formed from at least one of Sn and Si and at least one selected from the group consisting of Group 2 elements, transition elements, Group 12 elements, Group 13 elements, and Group 14 elements in the periodic table.

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Contd.*

11. (new) The lithium battery in accordance with claim 8, wherein said metal oxide is at least one selected from the group consisting of SiO , SnO , SnO_2 , SrSnO_3 and Li_2SnO_3 .